

was one of the greatest works of Plato which represents his thought fully. This book deals with both political and moral principles and it includes the metaphysical, educational and sociological and other problems, solutions.

Plato's Concept of Justice:

Plato had given great prominence to the idea of Justice that he subtitled his book "Republic" as "Concerning Justice". The Republic represents Plato's idea of Justice.

Plato represented his theory of Justice in the form of dialogue where he explained his ideas by rejecting the theories of Justice represented by others.

Dialogue:

Plato represented his Justice

in the form of dialogue
where he set some characters
The dialogue was between
Socrates and various characters.

- 1, Cephalus => An old wealthy man
- 2, Polemarchus => Son of Cephalus
- 3, Thrasymachus
- 4, Glaucon

Plato raises questions, "What
is righteousness or justice?"

Cephalus:

means giving
every man
his due.

Speaking truth and
paying one's debt.

Can't be applied
universally.

Socrates
rejects:

Polemarchus
Supporting his father
and giving due
a meaning.

Doing good to
one's friend
and bad to one's
enemy

Justice is doing good
to your enemy
as well.

Socrates
rejects:

Thrasymachus:

Justice is the interest of the strongest

Might is right
↳ Making rules for stability of rule.

The real ruler works selflessly and pays his duty rightly.

Socrates:
Rejects:

He thinks public's interest not his interest.

Glossary

Justice is child of fear founded in the need of weak.

Justice is not external or imposition. It is rooted in human mind.

Socrates
Rejects:

⇒ Plato's concept of Justice:
After rejecting different concepts of justice he proposed his own concept of Justice. Justice is present both in individual and society.

He defined justice in three steps.

Division of Society:

According to Plato every individual

has three elements inside them.

Out of those three one gets dominant.

The three elements:

1. Hunger/Desire \Rightarrow Artisan
2. Courage/B bravery \Rightarrow Soldier
3. Wisdom \Rightarrow Ruler

Considering their dominant elements, the society is divided into three groups: Artisan, Soldier, Ruler.

Specialization:

After division of society into groups, each group was given specific job.

Artisan/Peasants were given the work of production.

Soldier's work was to defend the state/society.

And Rulers were above all and they were made to rule.

Hunger	Production	Artisan
Courage	Defence	Soldier
Wisdom	Rule	Ruler

No Interference:

Division of Society was on the basis of their dominant force. Each group was given specific job and they were bound to do their job and had no right to interfere in each other's work. This non-interference creates harmony in the society. As there won't be any distraction while performing their assigned jobs.

As:

Peasants are made to produce goods only.

Soldiers are made to fight only.

Rulers are made to rule only.

This is called justice.

"Criticism"

The concept of justice by Plato has been exposed to criticism.

Lack of legal sanction:

Plato's Justice system is

grounded on moral principles, which lacks legal sanctions and no society can be run without enforcement of laws and legal sanction.

Not Practicable;

Plato's Justice System is practicable in City-State. As the division of society and allotted work to be done by specific group won't be possible in today's context.

Lack of opportunities

He said every individual has three qualities hunger, courage and wisdom. Each group was bound to contribute only in one field based on their dominant quality which lacks of opportunities.

Concept of Absolute Power;

By the Plato's Justice the concept of ~~absolute~~ power is built as

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he gives the absolute power to the ruler class. If he said no laws and rules are made for him and he is above all.

Class differences

Plato's concept of justice gives rise to class difference in which ruling class is the prior of all classes.

Conclusions

Plato was searching for justice. He found his answer. To Plato justice is division of society into class and giving them the specific job to do. Simply he means "giving everyone his due" which means assign everyone specific job according to their aptitude test and training which they qualified on specific fields. This definition has no no legal or juristic connotation. The state having justice is superior at all.